

PROFILE



# Mandy El-Sayegh

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b. 1985, Malaysia

## Mandy El-Sayegh Biography

Born in Selangor in Malaysia in 1985, Mandy El-Sayegh moved to the United Kingdom with her family at the age of five. In 2007 she received her BFA from the University of Westminster in London, followed by a Royal College of Art MFA that was centred on painting, but the artist has since expanded her contemporary art practice to writing, installation, and drawing.

El-Sayegh is concerned with the part-to-whole relations in philosophy and science, and how fragments of information can be re-formed to generate new meaning. Her practice is inherently fluid, involving processes of layering, erasure, and obfuscation. These processes are at play in the artist's ongoing 'Net-Grid' series, started in 2010, in which fragments of writing and images can be seen through layers of paint that have been applied using the wet-on-wet technique so that each layer absorbs into the next. On top, a hand-painted grid further obscures the layers while 'holding in' the information beneath—a literal reference to a net, and the act of catching something.

El-Sayegh's 'Net-Grid' paintings appear as cohesive compositions from afar; however, close up, elements appear sectioned off from each other by the grid. This micro-to-macro dynamic is at play across the artist's practice. Exhibitions of her artwork often include vitrines of what she calls her 'archive'—objects and images that mirror the composites of her paintings. In the artist's first institutional solo exhibition in the United Kingdom at Chisenhale Gallery, titled *Cite Your Sources* (12 April–9 June 2019), objects and images in vitrines included bars of Imperial Leather soap and iPhone cases, their display addressing the process of categorisation. Also on view in the exhibition were pages from the *Financial Times*, applied directly to the walls and floor of the gallery and overlaid with inscriptions in English and Arabic, along with maps and schematics. The pinkish hue of the paper recalled the tone of human flesh and the body's implicit entanglement in global economic, political, and social structures.

In an [Ocula Conversation](#) with [Para Site](#) deputy director Claire Shea, transcribed from a talk held in advance of the artist's solo exhibition at [Lehmann Maupin in Hong Kong](#) (*Dispersal*, 11 July–23 August 2019), El-Sayegh explains her approach to the show as an interest in 'this idea of an explosion, and a way to kind of start again from that.' This 'reformation of parts', as she calls it, is also at play in her ongoing 'Piece Paintings' (2010–ongoing), which are composed of disparate imagery—the body being a recurring feature—and text, including logos, which, the artist explains, 'have a magical quality that can be likened to witchcraft'.

El-Sayegh was shortlisted for the 7th edition of the Max Mara Art Prize for Women in 2017. That same year, the artist's installation *Boundary Work* was exhibited at Sharjah Biennial 13, having been commissioned by the Sharjah Art Foundation. The artist's works have been included in a number of group exhibitions, including *Ecologies of Darkness* at S A V V Y Contemporary in Berlin (2019).

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## Mandy El-Sayegh featured artworks



**Mandy El-Sayegh**  
*Editorial Alias (Libre)*, 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas with silkscreen and collage elements  
262 x 145 cm

Lehmann Maupin

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**Mandy El-Sayegh**  
*Burning Square: Deeds for the dead*  
Oil and acrylic on canvas with collage paper and gold leaf  
168.5 x 176 x 4.5 cm

**Sold**  
Lawrie Shabibi

**Mandy El-Sayegh**   
*Burning Square: freedom of goods*, 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas with collage elements and silkscreened elements, joss paper and gold leaf  
256 x 138 cm

**Sold**

Lawrie Shabibi

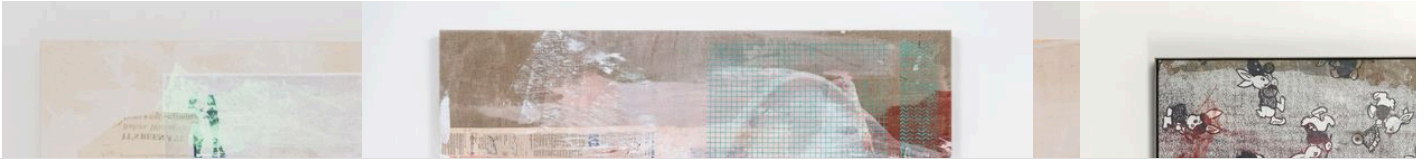


**Mandy El-Sayegh**  
*Piece Painting (free association)*, 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas with silkscreen and collage elements  
208 x 122 cm

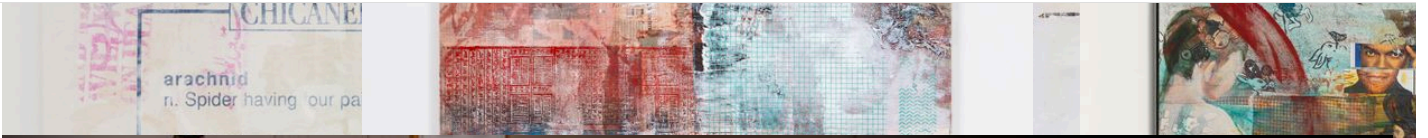
Lehmann Maupin

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**2024 Foundwork Artist Prize: International Open Call**

Jury  
Olivia Aherne, Mohamed Almusibli, Lorraine Kiang, Rachel Uffner, Monsieur Zohore

Deadline  
September 26

**CLOSED**  
12 APRIL–21 JUNE 2024

Hernan Bas, Loriel Beltrán, Mandy El-Sayegh, Todd Gray, Alex Prager, Nari Ward

Lehmann Maupin at Circolo Milano  
Milan

**CLOSED**  
10 APRIL–21 JUNE 2024

Mandy El-Sayegh  
Group Exhibition  
Selected Works  
Circolo Milano

Oil and mixed media on silkscreened linen with collaged elements  
168 x 118 x 4.1 cm  
Lehmann Maupin

Mandy El-Sayegh  
*Dream Recall (semi colon)*, 2022

Framed drawing and oil and acrylic on collaged, mixed media elements  
184 x 135.9 cm  
Lehmann Maupin

Mandy El-Sayegh  
*TBC - Piece Painting (denzel)*, 2022

Oil and mixed media on linen, stained canvas installation with  
225 x 150 cm  
Lehmann Maupin

**CLOSED**  
22 FEBRUARY–4 APRIL 2024

Mandy El-Sayegh  
& Lawrie Shabibi

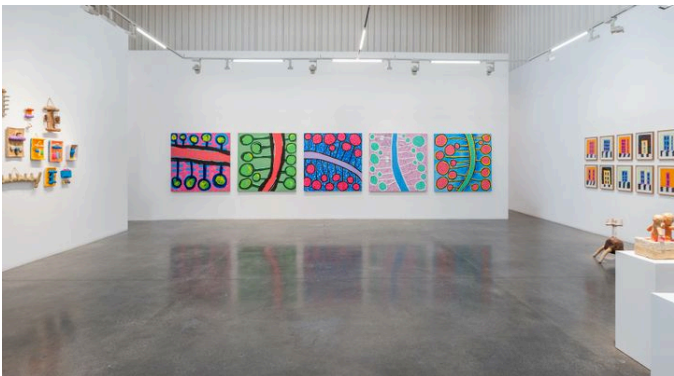
*A rose is a rose is a rose is a rose*  
Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai

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Lawrie Shabibi  
DUBAI



Lehmann Maupin  
HONG KONG, BEIJING, LONDON, NEW YORK, SEOUL +1



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ART SG 2024: 6 Stand-Out Works to Discover



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Rachel Jones's Sprawling Canvases Make Their Mark on London

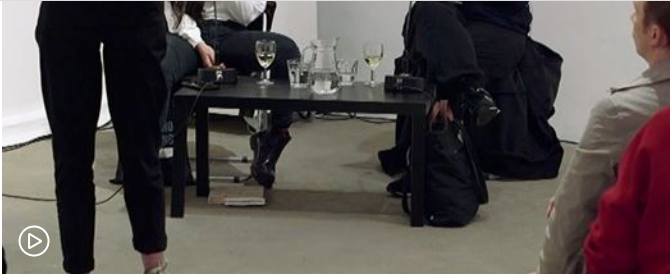


PERSPECTIVES  
Art021 and West Bund Art & Design: Advisory Selections

## Mandy El-Sayegh in video & audio



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VIDEO

Mandy El-Sayegh

VIDEO

Max Mara Art Prize for Women | 7th Edition | The Shortlist:  
Mandy El-Sayegh